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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Idaho

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Idaho. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has a few of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include census and LDS church records, cemetery transcriptions, city directories, and local histories. The library is presently acquiring vital, land, probate, military, and naturalization records from the county courthouses.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog™ available at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the locality section of the catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:
UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
IDAHO - NATIVE RACES
IDAHO, ADA - CEMETERIES
IDAHO, ADA, BOISE - DIRECTORIES
- The *record type* you want to search, such as:
UNITED STATES - **CENSUS RECORDS**
IDAHO - **NATIVE RACES**
IDAHO, ADA - **CEMETERIES**
IDAHO, ADA, BOISE - **DIRECTORIES**

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- Idaho State Historical Society/Genealogical Society
 450 N. 4th St.
 Boise, ID 83702
 Telephone: 208-334-3356
 Fax: 208-334-3198
Mailing Address:
 4620 Overland Rd. Rm #204
 Boise, ID 83705-2867
- National Archives and Records
 Administration—Pacific Northwest Region
 6125 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115
 Telephone: 206-526-6507
 Fax: 206-526-4344
- Ricks College Library
 Special Collections Area
 Rexburg, ID 83460-0405
 Telephone: 208-356-2354
 Fax: 208-356-2390
- University of Idaho
 Special Collections Library
 Moscow, ID 83843-4198
 Telephone: 208-885-6534
 Fax: 208-885-6817

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To learn more about the history and the record-keeping systems of Idaho counties, use the nine inventories of county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has most of these inventories.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Idaho in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>
 A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>
 A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* contains some Bible records from Idaho. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline, and is partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. II (Logan,

Utah: The Everton Publishers, Inc., 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

BIOGRAPHY

The best collection of biographical materials is at the Idaho State Historical Society. There is no statewide biographical index, but you can search state, regional, and county histories for biographical information. Some representative histories that are primarily biographical are:

Hawley, James H. *History of Idaho: The Gem of the Mountains*. 4 vols. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1920. (FHL book 979.6 H2h; vols. 1-3 on film 1000165; vol. 4 on film 908926.)

An Illustrated History of the State of Idaho. 4 vols. in 2. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1899. (FHL book 979.6 H2ih; film 1000164.)

A biographical index to several statewide and regional histories of Idaho is Marvin E. Wiggins, *Mormons and Their Neighbors: An Index of Over 75,000 Biographical Sketches from 1820 to the Present*. 2 vols. Provo, Utah: Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, 1984. (FHL book Ref 979 D32w.)

CEMETERIES

An indexed collection of tombstone inscriptions is *Cemetery Records of Idaho*, 12 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1952-68; FHL book 979.6 V3c; films 824262 items 3-266).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection also contains some inscriptions from Idaho cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are available at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information about these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for the state of Idaho for 1900, 1910, and 1920 but there is no 1890 census. The 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses have been indexed. The Family History Library has a soundex (phonetic) index on microfilm for the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

Territorial

The area that is presently Idaho was included in censuses of the Oregon Territory (1850), Washington Territory (1860), and Idaho Territory (1870 and 1880). For the 1860 census of Idaho County, see Spokane County, Washington. Parts of southern Idaho were also included in the 1860 and 1870 censuses of Cache County, Utah.

Statewide indexes are available for the 1870 and 1880 censuses in book and microfiche format. A Soundex (phonetic) index is available on microfilm for part of the 1880 census. The censuses and indexes are at the Family History Library.

Mortality schedules exist for the 1870 and 1880 censuses. The Family History Library has the schedules and indexes.

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in Idaho were The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), the Roman Catholic, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Presbyterian churches.

To locate church records see the *Directory of Churches and Religious Organizations of Idaho* (Boise, Id.: Historical Records Survey, 1940; FHL book 979.6 K24d; film 1036585 item 7; fiche 6046931).

The Idaho State Historical Society has a significant collection of Episcopal church records. They also have an index to Catholic records. The Family History Library and the LDS Church Archives have records of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Idaho as well as a few records of other churches. You can write to the following addresses to learn where church records are located:

Latter-day Saints (Mormons)

LDS Church Archives
Historical Department
50 East North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84150
Telephone: 801-240-2272
Fax: 801-240-1845

Methodist

United Methodist Archives Center
Drew University Library
P.O. Box 127
Madison, NJ 07940
Telephone: 215-408-3189
Fax: 201-408-3909

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Historical Society
United Presbyterian Church in U.S.
425 Lombard St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147
Telephone: 215-627-1852
Fax: 215-627-0509

Roman Catholic

Chancery Office
Diocese of Boise
303 Federal Way
Boise, ID 83705
Telephone: 208-342-1311
Fax: 208-342-0224

COURT RECORDS

Major Idaho courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

District courts have countywide jurisdiction over civil and criminal proceedings, including naturalization and property.

Probate courts had jurisdiction over probates, adoptions, and minor civil matters until they were abolished in 1971. Their records and functions were assigned to the district courts or the magistrate divisions of the district courts.

Justice of the peace courts had jurisdiction over minor cases until 1971 when they were abolished. Their jurisdiction was assigned to the district courts.

Magistrate divisions of district courts are citywide courts assigned court cases by the various district courts. These cases generally include minor civil and criminal cases, probates, and juvenile matters.

The Family History Library does not presently have copies of Idaho court records. These are at the various county courthouses. The Idaho State Historical Society has records of the Idaho Supreme Court.

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Idaho. For example, the Family History Library has:

- Boise
 - 1902 FHL film 1036517 item 3
 - 1905 FHL film 1425575 item 5
 - 1915 FHL film 1320813 item 4
 - 1918 FHL film 908278 item 2
 - 1921, 1923, 1927 . . FHL films 908174-75
 - 1904, 1914-18, etc. . FHL book 979.628 E4p

- Pocatello
 - 1905-06 FHL fiche 6046575
 - 1921 FHL film 1035751 item 6
 - 1903-06, 1927, etc. . FHL book 979.647/P1 E4p
 - 1927 FHL film 1320869 item 8

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

The pioneers who traveled over the Oregon Trail in the 1840s and 1850s rarely settled in Idaho. There were temporary trading posts and Protestant and Catholic missions but no permanent white settlement in Idaho until 1860 when settlers from Utah established Latter-day Saint communities in the Cache Valley.

In the early 1860s, many settlers returned from Washington, Oregon, and California to the gold fields of Idaho's northern panhandle. At the peak of this first mining boom as many as 70,000 whites may have been in Idaho, but by 1870 this number had dwindled to the 15,000 counted in the census.

Settlement was stimulated in the 1880s and 1890s by new mining booms in the north and by the arrival of railroads in the farmlands of southern Idaho. During this period, some Mormon families who had moved from Utah continued their migration northward to Alberta Province in Canada.

In the early 1900s, when reclamation projects opened desert lands to farming, a new wave of settlement from nearby states took place in southern Idaho. Today, nearly 70 percent of Idaho's population lives within 30 miles of the Snake River.

Most Idaho residents are of British, German, or Scandinavian origin, although there are about 6,000 Basques living near Boise. If you are looking for information on Basque settlement, you may find helpful information in Pat Bieter, *The Basques in Idaho*. Boise: Idaho State Historical Society, 197? (FHL book 979.6 A1 no. 41; film 1036796 item 15).

A few records of other ethnic groups are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under IDAHO - MINORITIES.

There was no port of entry common to overseas immigrants who settled in Idaho. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for east coast ports for the years between 1820 and about 1920. You'll find suggestions on Latter-day Saint immigration sources in the *Utah Research Outline*. Detailed information on other immigration sources is in the *United States Research Outline*.

GAZETTEERS

A guide to Idaho place names is *Gazetteer of Cities, Villages . . . in the State of Idaho* (Idaho Department of Highways, 1966; FHL book 979.6 E5i; film 1321491 item 4).

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person.

The *Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection* is a small manuscript collection consisting of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library, Washington, D.C., and is at the Family History Library (FHL films 849914; 869290; and 907987).

Information about the ancestry of 450 Idaho members of the Sons of the American Revolution is found in John R. Gobble, *Lineages of the Members (Past and Present), Idaho Society, Sons of the American Revolution, 1909 through 1961 . . .* (Idaho Falls, Idaho: J.R. Gobble, 1962; FHL book 979.6 D2s).

HISTORY

The following important events in the history of Idaho affected political boundaries, record keeping, and family movements.

- 1834 Fort Hall trading post was founded on the Snake River near the site of present-day Pocatello. During the 1840s and 1850s it became a major way station for those who passed through Idaho over the Oregon Trail.
- 1848 Idaho became part of the Oregon Territory.
- 1859 Idaho became part of the Washington Territory.
- 1860 The Mormon community of Franklin in Cache Valley became the first permanent white settlement in Idaho.
- 1860-1863 Gold discoveries in the river valleys of northern Idaho attracted temporary settlement.
- 1860-1880s A series of Indian conflicts continued until the Indians were assigned to reservations.
- 1863- The Idaho Territory was created out of the Washington and Dakota Territories. In 1864, the Montana Territory was cut away from the Idaho Territory. In 1868, a small part of

Idaho Territory was transferred to the new Wyoming Territory.

- 1880s Mining booms in the north and the coming of the railroads to the south brought new settlers.
- 1890 Idaho became a state.
- 1900- Reclamation projects brought another wave
1910 of settlement to the former desert lands of southern Idaho.

An especially helpful source for studying the history of Idaho is Merrill D. Beal and Merle W. Wells, *History of Idaho*, 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1959; FHL book 979.6 H2b). Volume 3 has family histories.

A bibliography of local histories for Idaho is Milo G. Nelson and Charles A. Webbert, eds., *Idaho Local History: A Bibliography* (Moscow, Id.: The University Press of Idaho, 1976; FHL book 979.6 A3n).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Federal Land Records

When Idaho was first settled, the federal government administered most of the land through local land offices. Available land was surveyed and could then be transferred to private ownership in a process known as land entry.

The first general land offices were established in Boise and Lewiston by 1870. These offices kept tract books (recording transactions for each section of land) and township plats (maps of land entries for each township).

After a settler completed the requirements for homesteading or purchasing land, the local land office sent his case file to the General Land Office in Washington, D.C., where a patent or first title deed was issued, transferring the land to private ownership.

To locate the land entry or homestead case file for your ancestor, you will need to know either the patent number or the legal description (range, township, section of the land). The county recorder of deeds may be able to provide the legal description from county land records, or you may be able to pinpoint the exact location of the tract by searching the entries in the tractbook covering the approximate area.

The patents and copies of the tract books and township plats are at the Idaho State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (1387 So. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709-1657, Telephone: 208-373-4000, Fax: 208-373-3888). The National Archives and

Records Administration—Pacific Northwest Region has copies of the township plats and the original tract books, plats, homestead entry files, and cash entry files.

County Land Records

After land was transferred from the government by sale or grant to private ownership, it could be sold again, inherited, lost by foreclosure of a mortgage, or distributed through a divorce. Deeds, mortgages, and other transactions are recorded in each county by the clerk of the district court. The Family History Library does not have copies of these records, but you can obtain copies by contacting the district court clerk's office in each county.

MAPS

The best map collections are at libraries of the University of Idaho, Boise State University, and Idaho State University. The Family History Library has a small collection of maps for the territories of Oregon and Idaho.

The following publications include maps that can aid your research:

Preston, Ralph N. *Maps of Early Idaho*. (Corvallis, Oreg.: Western Guide Publishers, 1972. FHL book Q 979.6 E3p.) Lists early towns, gold mines, and old military roads.

An Atlas of Idaho Territory, 1863-1890. ([Boise, Idaho]: Idaho Historical Society, 1978. FHL book Folio 979.6 E7a.)

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on federal records. For Idaho the following sources are also very helpful:

Civil War (1861-1865)

An index to service records of a few Union volunteers from the Washington Territory is at the Family History Library (FHL film 821948). The library also has the federal index of pensioners, but the actual service and pension records are only at the National Archives.

Indian Wars

Many soldiers served in Idaho and other western states during the Indian Wars. The Family History Library has enlistment registers for soldiers who served in the regular army from 1798 to 1914. These provide the soldier's rank, unit, commanders, physical description, occupation, and birthplace. The records are arranged by year and by the first letter of the surname (FHL films 350307—).

An index of pension applications filed between 1892-1926, for service in the Indian Wars from 1817 to 1898 is on FHL films 821610-21. The pension records are at the National Archives.

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Idaho, see:

United States. Selective Service System. Idaho, *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (On FHL films beginning with 1452106.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities.

Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

Modern Wars

A published roster of soldiers who died in World War I is W.M. Haulsee, et al, *Soldiers in the Great War*, 3 vols. (Washington, D.C.: Soldiers Record Publishing Assoc., 1920; FHL book 973 M23s; fiche 6051244). Volume 1 includes Idaho.

NATIVE RACES

A few thousand American Indians of various tribes, including Kalispel, Kutenai, Nez Perce, Shoshoni, and Paiute, live in Idaho. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of the Bureau of Indian

Affairs records of births, marriages, deaths, enrollments, allotments, schools, and family registers. These generally cover from about 1887 to 1952 for the Fort Hall and the Northern Idaho agencies.

Records of the various tribes are listed in the catalog under IDAHO - NATIVE RACES and also in the subject section under the names of the tribes. The original documents are at the National Archives—Pacific Northwest Region.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records have usually been filed with the clerk of the U.S. District Court in each county courthouse. The records of some counties are in neighboring counties. The Idaho Supreme Court in Boise has some records from 1890.

For naturalization records after September 1906, contact the nearest office of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

Idaho newspapers were first published in the 1860s. Currently published weekly newspapers are on microfilm at the Idaho State Historical Society. The Family History Library has not collected copies of newspapers from Idaho. You will find collections at public and university libraries. An obituary index to Salt Lake City newspapers, 1867 to 1970, includes some Idaho residents (FHL films 821636-99).

PERIODICALS

A periodical helpful for Idaho research is *The Idaho Genealogical Society Quarterly*, 1958- (Published by the Idaho Genealogical Society, 325 W. State St., Boise, ID 83702, Telephone: 208-384-0542; FHL book 979.6 B2ig).

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate courts had jurisdiction over probate records, adoptions, and minor civil matters until 1971 when they were abolished. Their records were transferred to the magistrate divisions of the district courts. Idaho probate records include wills, appraisals, inventories, letters, claims, final accounts, estate cases, and guardianships. You can obtain copies of probate records from the clerk's office in each county courthouse. The Family History Library has a few published volumes of probate records.

VITAL RECORDS

Births and Deaths

The first birth records were kept in the 1870s by midwives who sent their reports to county clerks. The Family History Library has some of these records. The counties were officially required to keep records of births and deaths from 1907 to 1911. Write to the county clerk for information about these records. The Family History Library is presently acquiring copies of some of them. The State Historical Society has some birth and death records from Ada, Canyon, and Twin Falls Counties.

Statewide registration of births and deaths began in 1911, and was generally complied with by the early 1920s. Copies of these records are available from:

Vital Statistics Unit
Idaho Department of Health and Welfare
450 W. State St.
Statehouse Mail
Boise, Idaho 83720-9990
Telephone: 208-334-5988
Fax: 208-389-9096

State your relationship to the individual you want information about and the reason you want the information. Only family members can obtain the information in these files.

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and at many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Bureau of Vital Statistics (address above) for current information.

Marriages and Divorces

The county recorders have kept marriage records since the date each county was organized. The Family History Library has copies of some of these. An index to Franklin, Lemhi, and counties in nearby states is the Miscellaneous Marriage Records Index (FHL films 820155 items 2-73). Ricks College Library will also search its statewide index of pre-1900 marriages.

Marriage records since 1947 are available from the Bureau of Vital Statistics (address above).

Divorce records are available from the clerk of the district court in the county where the decree was granted.

Inventory of Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and the availability of vital records in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records In Idaho, State and County*. Boise: Historical Records Survey, 1942. (FHL book 979.6 V2h; film 1036585 item 8.)

FOR FURTHER READING

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

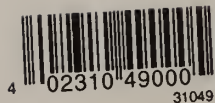
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